

NARRATOR: Koskella, Ted and Joy
INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves
DATE: June 21, 2000
LOCATION: Boise, Idaho (Municipal Park)
PROJECT: Smokejumpers/Forest Fire Fighters

Tape

Counter	Summary
000	Introduction.
005	Koskella fought fires in the late 1930s. He did not have any relationships with CCC camps and WPA projects. Koskella felt the CCC did a lot for the forest.
025	Koskella enlisted in the Navy in 1942. He spoke of all the places he served in the United States and elsewhere. He flew planes for the Navy during the war, and through 1947. He checked for German and Japanese U-boats, rescued down pilots, and flew over boat convoys to serve as support.
090	Koskella felt proud to serve his country. He did feel upset when some unions struck during the war, while others fought hard for their country. He really wanted to fly in the war, so he felt frustrated when he was transferred to many U.S. bases before he fought in the war.
115	After the war Koskella still flew for the Navy. He discussed the jobs he did until he resigned his commission. He would serve as support for troops as they reclaimed Pacific islands that still had Japanese soldiers. By 1947 he felt like a “glorified bus driver,” so he resigned his commission. He returned to school at Oregon State College. Koskella worked for the Forest Service during his summers in college.
170	1949 was a big fire year. Koskella described the things he and the Forest Service learned from that year. One big thing learned from that year was having organized crews to fight fire.
190	Both smokejumpers and aerial support were major changes in fighting fire during Koskella’s 30+ years fighting fire.
205	Koskella served in many National Forests outside of Idaho. He talked about fighting fire in those places, and fighting fire as a fire boss for Region One of the Forest Service.
220	Koskella offered his opinions about the changes in the Forest Service since he retired in the mid-1970s. He felt there was a lot more litigation and bureaucracy in the last twenty-five years.

245 Koskella liked being a ranger at Pinedale, Wyoming. He felt the people there were not as class conscious.

[Joy Koskella, Ted's wife, joined the interview.]

260 Ted felt that fighting fire helped him make a contribution. When he left, he felt that he was leaving his (Forest Service) family.

280 Ted and Joy met at the Palladium in Hollywood, California. Joy was training to be a flight attendant. When they married, she quit her job with the airlines.

295 Joy had mixed feelings about being a forester's wife. She thought she would be a pilot's wife.

325 Being a ranger's wife was a full-time job. One professor at Oregon State College taught classes to the foresters' spouses. Joy recalled the advice Professor McCulloch gave her (and other wives) about the difficulties being in the Forest Service. Joy worked in the ranger's office both when Ted was there, and when he was gone.

375 In the beginning Ted worked only ten months a year. So, two months in the winter they still lived at the ranger station, but worked without pay. They talked about living in the backcountry in the winter.

400 Joy enjoyed her time at the Pinedale, Wyoming National Forest. She talked about giving backcountry tours (with Ted) in the summer.

425 When Ted moved up the career ladder, Joy's role changed. She was not involved as a ranger's wife; she became involved in Girl Scouts.

450 On the home front in World War II, Joy worked as a journeymen burner. She cut steel in the hull of the ship to help the ship give during its trips on the sea. After that job she went into the airlines.

480 The Koskella's moved many times during their career in the Forest Service. Joy talked about what they did to make the move from place to place.

485 **END OF SIDE ONE**
END OF INTERVIEW

NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

Big Creek (Idaho)
Boise Junior College
Boy Scouts of America
C-54 (airplane)
Chamberlain Basin (Idaho)
Corpus Christi, Texas
Edmonton, Alberta
Foss, Joe (WWII pilot)
Girl Scouts of America
Hollywood, California
Hollywood, Florida
Inoweetok Island (Pacific Ocean)
Key West, Florida
Lewiston, Idaho
Oregon State College
Palladium, The (Hollywood, California)
Pasco, Washington
PBM's (airplane used in World War II)
Pinedale, Wyoming
Point Barrow, Alaska
Professor McCulloch (Oregon State College)
San Francisco, California
San Pedro, California
Sausalito, California
Seattle, Washington
Secesh Summit (central Idaho)
St. Mary's College (California)
Wasatch National Forest (Utah)